

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2285 without my signature.

The Department of Health Services remains in litigation over some of the issues relevant to this legislation, and it is premature to mandate activities that are currently being reviewed by a court of law. The necessary funding to provide the Department of Health Services with resources to implement this bill was not included in the Budget Act of 2004. During this period of severe budget crisis in the State, I am unable to prioritize this legislation above other necessary activities.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger